

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
CONCERNING COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT

I. BACKGROUND: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) share common interests in science and technology research and development (R&D). Both organizations have mission responsibility for conducting scientific research and technology development.

Increased benefit will accrue from the expenditure of funds appropriated for such R&D if NASA and USGS cooperatively engage in long range science and technology plans and development efforts.

II. PURPOSE: This MOU establishes the organizational structures and mechanisms for cooperation between NASA HQ and US GS for the purpose of facilitating scientific research and long range technology development planning.

III. SCOPE: This MOU defines the roles and responsibilities of NASA and USGS in order to implement cooperative scientific research and technology development.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Establish a NASA/USGS Roundtable for Science and Technology Coordination.

1. The Roundtable will be chaired jointly by the NASA Associate Administrator for Mission to Planet Earth, and the Director, USGS. Membership and staff support will be determined by the co-chairs.

2. The Roundtable will meet at least twice per year.

3. The Roundtable will establish, as it deems necessary, working groups to undertake studies of interagency issues, and make recommendations within its areas of responsibilities. These activities include, but are not necessarily restricted to, areas of broad common interest to both agencies such as:

Specific science themes include:

- Land characterization
- Long and short term climate change - Hydrologic sciences - Coastal zone studies
- Natural hazards assessment and monitoring
- Geologic research

Specific technology themes include:

- Remote sensing and monitoring technology
- Data and information system development
- Commercialization (private sector satellite operators and sources of data)

B. Letters of agreements on joint projects agreed to by the Roundtable will be attached to this MOU.

## VI. PROTOCOLS

A. This MOU becomes effective when the last signature is affixed by the authorized representative.

B. This MOU will remain in effect until terminated per paragraph C. Annual consideration will be given by the co-chairs to the value of continuing these arrangement.

C. Notification by one of the signatories can cause re-negotiation or cancellation of this MOU.

APPROVED:

*(Signed Original on File)*

Dr. Gordon P. Eaton  
Director,  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Department of the Interior

Date: May 28, 1996

*(Signed Original on File)*

Dr. Charles F. Kennel  
Associate Administrator,  
Office of Mission to Planet Earth  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Date: May 28, 1996